Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system for automatically configuring a plurality of different types of network devices, comprising

a library of generic commands that can be applied to said devices and converters for converting each of said generic commands into device-specific commands to be applied to individual network devices;

a database storing configuration parameters for said plurality of network devices; and

a configuration interface which receives said parameters from said database and issues generic commands to said library to cause individual ones of said devices to be configured using said device-specific commands and in accordance with said parameters;

wherein said configuration interface displays identifications of firewall devices associated with a network and conduits within said firewall devices, and permits a user to select at least one of said firewall devices.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said interface issues commands to said library to obtain configuration information from individual devices, and stores said information in said database.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said configuration parameters are stored in said database as a model containing a list of values to which each configuration parameter in an individual one of said devices is to be set.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein said model also identifies the specific sequence in which the setting of the parameter values is to take place.

5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said interface communicates with said database to obtain the identifications of the firewall devices ~~associated with a network~~ and generates a first display which lists said devices, and further includes means responsive to the selection of one of the devices in said list to generate a second display which lists the conduits ~~within said device~~, wherein each conduit is identified by means of descriptive names stored in said database for local and external devices and/or networks that are logically connected by the conduit.

6. (Original) The tool of claim 5, further including means responsive to the selection of one of the devices listed in said first display to generate a third display which lists internal networks owned by an entity associated with the selected device, and means to selectively open and close conduits respectively corresponding to said internal networks.

7. (Original) The tool of claim 6 wherein said third display further includes means for adding a new conduit to one of the internal networks.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said interface includes:

means for commanding a console server to send a message to each console connected to said console server;

means for analyzing a response to said message provided by each console to determine the type of device which transmitted said response; and

means for displaying a list of device types corresponding to the consoles connected to said console server.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 further including a memory storing a template which contains a sequence of commands for configuring each of a plurality of devices of a given type, wherein each command that refers to a particular device contains a variable as the identification of the device; and wherein:

said database stores a record which indicates the respective network address of each specific device for which a given device is to be configured, and

said interface is responsive to a command to configure a given device for retrieving said template and the stored record associated with said given device, substituting the network addresses in the retrieved record for the variables in said template, .and issuing commands to configure the given device in accordance with said retrieved record and said template.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein said network addresses comprise Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein a plurality of templates are stored in said memory, each corresponding to a different respective type of device.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein said templates are stored in said database.

13. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein each parameter setting in said model is used to construct a separate command, and said commands are stored in a queue to be individually retrieved and forwarded to said library by said interface.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said converters transmit each of said commands in accordance with a transmission protocol specific to the individual devices, respectively.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein one of said transmission protocols comprises Telnet.

16. (Currently amended) A method for automatically configuring a plurality of different types of network devices, comprising the following steps:

storing a library of generic commands for configuring said devices;

linking a plurality of converters respectively associated with different ones of said network devices to said library, to convert said generic commands into device-specific commands to be applied to the associated devices;

retrieving a set of parameters from a database that pertains to the configuration of one type of network device; ~~and~~

in response to receipt of said set of parameters, issuing generic commands to said library to cause a device of said one type to be configured in accordance with said parameters; and

displaying a plurality of firewall devices and a conduit for each such firewall device.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said converters comprise respective plug-in modules that are registered with the library to receive generic commands directed to the devices with which they are associated.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of issuing generic commands comprises the steps of:

generating a corresponding generic command for each parameter in the retrieved set of commands;

storing the generated commands in a queue;

presenting a first command in the queue to said library, to be converted and transmitted to the device as a device-specific command; and

in response to a reply to the transmitted command, presenting the next command in the queue to the library.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the reply to one of the transmitted commands contains information describing the configuration of the device, and further including the step of storing said information in the database.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said set of parameters defines a model containing values to which configuration parameters of the device are to be set.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said model identifies a specific sequence in which the setting of the parameter values is to occur.